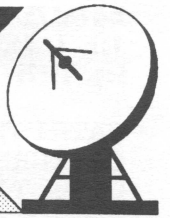


# MATWATCH

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VOL. 4, NO. 33

AUG. 19-25

After 182 Issues

## MATWATCH CLOSES SHOP JAN. 27

After nearly four years of tracing the evolution of pro wrestling into the 1990s and keeping watch on the inevitable TV Armageddon between Vince McMahon and Ted Turner, MATWATCH ceases weekly publication with its 182nd issue Jan. 27, 1992.

The decision was made late last week after long consideration over the past three months involving health, personal desires and the overall state of the wrestling industry, including the business of mat newsletters.



Steve

Beverly

Exceedingly during the past year, one has found it difficult to rekindle a zest for wrestling creativity. In our view, so little is original; angles, finishes and storylines have become as recycled as pulp paper;

characters have become far more caricaturized and bizarre than in Vince McMahon's national infancy in 1984; and with the exception of a short catalyst from the upcoming Hulk Hogan-Ric Flair confrontations, much of the magic is simply gone for me.

But personal considerations are far more important. Many of them I shared with you in a double issue four months ago. This week, I edge ever closer to the age of 40---young by most standards---but I am recognizing things which are more significant than maintaining a weekly wrestling newsletter and I don't want to miss them before much more time passes me by.

I owe my wife nearly four years of weekends in which many personal plans had to skirt the necessary time to produce MATWATCH. She has never complained, encouraged me and spent many Monday nights working to help mail this publication into 46 states and seven international countries. The desire to begin a family is foremost in our minds, as well.

I want and need to spend more time with our menagerie of four animals and as a supporter of humane society activities in every area we have resided, I want to work in my field to help see that we build a respectable animal shelter in Jackson TN as opposed to the current one near the Forked Deer River, which floods each time we experience a substantial rain.

And as I have stated, newsletters are now as prevalent as brands of candy bars. With 54 known bulletins in print, the field is more oversaturated than mat TV shows with too little originality. It's time for one of us to take a breather.

But a critical experience for me in late spring sealed my decision. A few of you are aware of it. On June 4 of this year, I suffered a nervous breakdown. Weeks of depression had preceded and followed it. It is an illness which in years past, people shied from discussing. But I will share more

about it with you in the future, in part because I have learned of similar problems some of our most loyal MATWATCHers have encountered and if my experience can serve to help even one person, it will be worth telling. Did MATWATCH cause my illness? Not alone. But coupled with intense pressures of a demanding television job and little of the massive profits made by this TV station being plowed back into our operation by absentee corporate owners, the requirements of turning out a publication of quality have just been too demanding.

It has been a slow but steady road back. With the help of a wonderful wife and a top-notch counselor, I am about 80 per cent of the way there, physically and emotionally. I am confident and my doctor is encouraged that by mid-September, I'll be back to my old self, albeit with some important changes.

I have turned a major corner in my life the last few months and have come to appreciate many things people view as small in life. Small things have turned into big victories for me since last June. I have come to relish that much more in life is far more important than the outcome of a silly wrestling match or the state of any promotion.

To our final issue, I will not cease speaking out on issues within this industry I feel are critical. More than ever, I feel operators of wrestling companies of every import need to examine themselves and if they bill their product as wholesome and family-oriented, they should ask themselves if they would really want their children to see it, live or on TV.

For competitors chemically inducing their bodies to abnormal proportions, particularly those cast as role models, is it worth the back-end physical risk and value of hero worship when 75 per cent of the steroid use in this country is by people under the age of 20?

Are we, in this form of gonzo journalism, as responsible as we should be to tell all available sides to a story and do we go far enough to correct the errors which surely appear?

In our final months, I won't withhold any views, with the reality that I am far from the last word. Some will celebrate the end of this effort. But we hold to our convictions, knowing we are fallible and your view is of equal value.

Next week, we will detail a subscription plan for our final issues and a compensation plan to those entitled to refunds. We wind up in mid-February with an annual, MATWATCH: THE FINAL CHAPTER, which we hope will be a break from the standard year-end fare, detailing many stories we've never told during the four years of following this industry. Until then, let's return to the week's mat news and may God bless you.

**THIS  
WEEK'S  
HEADLINES****PATRIOTS  
CAPTURE  
U.S. TITLE**

GAINESVILLE GA---In a week in which the character name Patriot equals mat success, WCW's Patriots, Todd Champion and Curtis Thompson, have won the U.S. tag team title.

The Patriots defeated the Freebirds Aug. 12 in tapings for WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING to air Aug. 31 on TBS.

The victory followed by two nights the win by The Patriot (Del Wilkes) of the Global North American title in a disputed decision.

**GILBERT GOES GLOBAL;  
BEGINS IN OCTOBER**

ATLANTA---After weeks of debating his career future, Eddie Gilbert has agreed to start with Joe Pedicino's Global Wrestling Federation Aug. 23.

Gilbert will enter the GWF as a heel and become initially involved in a program with Al Perez in connection with the disputed finish to the Global North American tournament.

The Lexington TN native has a three-week Japan tour scheduled to begin Sept. 5.

**CAUDLE RETURNS  
TO ANNOUNCE DESK**

CONCORD NC---Veteran NWA/WCW commentator Bob Caudle has returned to the announce wars.

Caudle, who ended a long association with the senior circuit in January, took over as host of the revived SOUTH ATLANTIC PRO WRESTLING Aug. 3.

SAPW shows with Caudle began airing Aug. 10 on a small network in the Carolinas.

**KOLOFF BOLTS WCW  
OVER MONEY DISPUTE???**

ATLANTA---According to a top-level TBS programming official, Nikita Koloff has left World Championship Wrestling on the verge of the Sept. 5 CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS XVI.

MATWATCH could not reach WCW chief Jim Herd but Herd said earlier: "We're having a problem with Nikita Koloff. I'm not going to try this case in the media but, just take my word, it's a problem."

Promotion insiders say Koloff is asking more money and higher billing than WCW's bosses feel he is worth. But another insider has told MATWATCH Koloff may be rehired if he signs WCW's offer sheet before the CLASH, in which he was booked for a "test of strength" with weightlifter Bill Kaszmeier.

**Answers Herd's Comments****MARVEZ: "I STAND  
BY MY STORY"**

GAINESVILLE FL---MIAMI HERALD and Knight-Ridder Newspapers wrestling columnist Alex Marvez stands by his recent story on the future of WCW executive vice president Jim Herd and booker Dusty Rhodes and says Herd's gag order on company employees talking to Marvez will hurt WCW's coverage in Florida.

In a column two weeks ago, Marvez wrote the jobs of Herd and Rhodes "appear tenuous because of steadily declining television ratings and live show attendance. WCW has reportedly interviewed Bill Watts, Ole Anderson, Ric Flair and Greg Gagne for Herd's and Rhodes' positions. Former WCW performers Jim Cornette and Stan Lane sent Herd a bouquet of dead flowers."

Last week in MATWATCH, Herd called Marvez's story on his position an "out and out lie" and expressed anger because Marvez had not called him for a comment and because of the HERALD's widespread circulation.

Reached Thursday night in Gainesville FL, Marvez told MATWATCH: "I called WCW and spoke to Barry Norman. I told him what I'd heard. He could not confirm if all or any of them (the listed candidates, of whom Watts later denied being interviewed) had been in the office. Why should I confirm a matter with Jim Herd that has nothing to do with him? That's a matter for (WCW president) Jack Petrik. I left a message with Petrik's secretary Monday morning but he was on vacation all week."

Herd told MATWATCH, "He (Marvez) won't have that chance again because I've told our people not to talk to him."

Answered Marvez: "There is nothing wrong with what I wrote. If he wants to cut his opinion off from 365 Knight-Ridder newspapers, that's fine. I'll just get my information from other sources. I just won't have an official statement from him."

Marvez said he had been assigned an Oct. 6 story by THE TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT to do a profile of Ron Simmons, the former Florida State All-American, in conjunction with Simmons' WCW world title match against Lex Luger in the Florida capital. "Now, I can't do that story because WCW has banned me," said Marvez. "If they don't want that kind of coverage, they'll have to live with it."

**So Says TBS Executive****CLASH SPECIALS COULD  
BE IN JEOPARDY**

ATLANTA---A highly-placed Turner Broadcasting System official says the quarterly CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS series of specials "could be in jeopardy" for the future if ratings do not improve.

The February and June CLASH events each posted 3.9 ratings with Ric Flair vs. Scott Steiner (Feb.) and Flair-Bobby Eaton (June) main events, which both tied as the second lowest-rated CLASHes in the history of the live TBS series, though the June show was seen in a respectable 2.22 million homes.

Said the Turner source: "This one has been sent back for more revisions than any yet. First, they weren't going to have either Luger or Sting on it. Then, they added a Luger contract signing and put Sting vs. Johnny B. Badd (a puzzle since Badd has become a babyface in arenas)." Problems have prevented the TBS promotion office from producing spots for the show because of frequent changes and only one mention of the CLASH was made on the weekend's TBS shows.

Tentatively planned are a Ron Simmons-Diamond Studd match and the finals of the world tag tourney with Arn Anderson and Larry Zbyszko vs. Rick Steiner and Bill Kaszmeier. But the TBS exec says concern is running high over the show. "If this one does not pull better numbers, there will be some serious talking about the future of the CLASH." CLASH advertisers have been guaranteed ratings between 4 and 4.5 and underdelivery of audience results in TBS having to offer makegood spots in other broadcasts.

Last September's Flair-Luger and Sting-Black Scorpion CLASH matches were the two most-watched wrestling events in cable television history.



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(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]:

Entire show is bachelor party for Randy Savage; Jimmy Snuka d. Brooklyn Brawler; Paul Roma d. Tim Patterson; Greg Valentine d. Black Knight; (SUMMER SLAM REPORT) Plug for SLAM SPECTACULAR Sunday; Barbarian d. Jim Powers; (FEATURE) Jake Roberts covers Ultimate Warrior to neck in graveyard; Marty Jannetty d. Kato; (VIDEO) Randy picks wedding tuxedo; I.R.S. double countout vs. Davey Boy Smith; (PUNERAL PARLOR) Paul Bearer w. Undertaker; (ANGLE) Jake angered when denied entry to party, tells Warrior to "wait for Thursday night;" Curt Hennig d. Mike Daniels by countout; Legion of Doom d. Dwayne Gill/Barry Hardy; (FINALE) Fat woman emerges from cake & carries off Bobby Heenan. RESTHOLD.  
[SUMMER SLAM SPECTACULAR]: Road Warrior Hawk d. Brian Knobbs; (FEATURE) Jake lures Warrior into a roomful of snakes & Ult is "bitten" by a cobra, Jake leaves him to die, Ult escapes & imagines he sees Undertaker/Paul Bearer; Bret Hart d. Barbarian; (INTERVIEW) Mean Gene w. Sid Justice; (6-MAN) Ricky Steamboat/Kerry Von Erich/Smith d. Orient Express; (COMMENT) Heenan, w. Ric Flair's belt, says Ric will give world title shot to Hulk Hogan-Sgt. Slaughter winner; (WWF TITLE) Hogan d. Slaughter by DQ when Col. Mustafa/Gen. Adnan run in. Sid chases them but also takes chair away from Hogan; Natural Disasters d. Roy Garcia/Ross Greenberg; (BARBER SHOP) Sherri Martel says she'll disrupt Savage/Liz wedding. Beefcake gives her broom to ride to ceremony; Virgil d. Black Knight. POWERSLAM-PLUS.

(GLOBAL/ESPN) - [Mon.]: {REPEAT} Lt. heavyweight finals when dispute continues over use of Wet 'n' Wild. NO RATING.

[Tue./TAG TEAM QUARTERFINALS]: Rip Rogers/Scott Anthony d. Billy Black/Chaz (sub for injured Joel Deaton); Royal Family d. Terry Garvin/Chaz; Renegade Warriors d. Big Bully Busich/Bad News; (NEWSROOM) Joe Pedicino on Global Patriot, WCW Patriots team. DRAW.

[Wed./TAG TEAM SEMIFINALS]: Makham Singh/Cactus Jack d. Tom Davis (who solos when Mike Davis hurt); (NEWSROOM) Joe on tourney, Savage-Liz wedding, Boni Blackstone & fans; Chris Walker/Steve Simpson d. Royal Family; Rogers/Anthony d. Renegade Warriors. DRAW.

(GLOBAL/SYN) - [MAJOR LEAGUE]: Renegade Warriors d. Davis Bros.; Bad News d. Steven Dane; Firecat d. Cuban Assassin; Patriot d. Cactus Jack; Handsome Stranger d. Rod Price; Billy Black/Joel Deaton d. Brian Adias/Pvt. Terry Daniels; (REPLAY/GLOBAL TAG FINALS) Walker/Simpson d. Rogers/Anthony to win belts; (NEWSROOM) Joe on tag tourney, Chris Love's "Bodies of the '90s." DRAW.

(LPWA) - ["The Good, The Bad & the Champions, Part III]: {LPWA TITLE/REPLAY} Susan Sexton d. The Beast 2-3 falls to retain belt. Ashley Kennedy kicks The Beast after but Sexton chases Kennedy w. belt; {LPWA TITLE/REPLAY} Lady X d. Bambi 2-3 to keep title. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(SOUTH ATLANTIC) - Tommy Angel/Tommy Seabolt d. Terminator/Bob Leet; Jeff Husker d. Stevie Boy Adams; Chris Chavis d. Unknown Warrior; Manny Fernandez d. Sky Trooper; Vince Torelli d. Phil McLoughlin; Wahoo McDaniel d. Rick Savage. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(SUNCOAST PRO) - [SUNCOAST FLA. TITLE]: Superstar d. Full Force to win belt when Jumbo Baretta throws in towel; Giant Outlaw d. Tito Mackenzie when Penelope Paradise shakes ropes & causes Tito to fall; (REPLAY) Frankie Reyes d. Paradise;

(ANGLE) Reyes/Boris Malenko agree to lumberjack match vs. Superstar/Paradise; Tom Sawyer/Jim Magnum vs. Chris Proctor/Ian Weston in progress at show end. NO RATING.

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILERIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

(AAWF) - Mr. Wrestling III draw vs. Riverboat Gambler; Cover-boys d. Avenger/Tom Lane; Nightstalker d. Jimmy Fargo. BOMB.

(UIW) - Adrian Hall d. Watsumi (The Rising Sun) using trunks but the 2 brawl to dressing room; King Kaluha d. Corey Roberts; Axl Rotten d. Ken Martin; Cream Team d. Dixie Devastation by DQ when Creamers whipped w. belts & draped w. Confederate flag; Harley Watkins d. Warpig by DQ when ref decked, so Warpig decks manager Sonny Steele & walks out; (ANGLE) Golden Phoenix decks Kevin (The Truth) Casey but Max Thrasher ambushes Phoenix & hangs him w. noose. Dave McAllister decked & has to be helped out; A.J. Fritzoid double DQ vs. Killerhit Kirk Dredd & both brawl into seats & concession stand. DRAW.

(WWF/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]: I.R. Schyster d. Sonny Blaze; Steamboat d. Bob Bradley; Big Bossman d. Jim McPherson; SUMMER SLAM REPORT; Nasty Boys d. Thomas/Greenberg; Bushwhackers d. Pete Doherty/Daniels; (FEATURE) Jake-Warrior angle. RESTHOLD.  
[SUPERSTARS]: {FEATURE} Jake-Warrior; Berserker d. Dave Mil-lison; Von Erich d. Doherty; (UPDATE) Bobby Heenan w. more on Ric Flair; L.O.D. d. Gill/Hardy; SUMMER SLAM REPORT; Snuka d. Brawler; Hennig d. Daniels by countout; OTHER WINNER: Skinner. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(PRO WRESTLING '91) - Festus double countout vs. Mad Dog Joe. After, Gordon Clements tries to separate them. As Joe sets to deck Gordon, Festus shoves Clements aside & Joe decks Festus; (GLOBAL) Stan Lane d. Skip Young; (CLASSIC/AWA TITLE) Jerry Lawler d. Hennig to win belt; Steve Lawler/Busich d. T.J. Dol-lar/Awesome T.C.; (INTL/ALL-ASIAN TITLE) Black/Deaton vs. Ken-ta Kobashi/Johnny Ace (Part I); Walker/Fabian d. Brute Force. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(IWCCW) - Scott Putski d. Black Knight; (REPLAY) Austin Idol/Joe Savoldi d. Lou Fabiano/Scott Grace; (P.W.I. PRESS CONF.) Bob Smith w. Tony Rumble/Tony Atlas; (RECAP/IWCCW TAG TITLE) Billion \$ Babies d. Equalizers to win belts. BOMB.

(AWA: LOOKING BACK) - [1985/AWA TITLE] Rick Martel d. Mr. Sa-ito; [1986/CAGE] Midnight Rockers d. Doug Sommers/Buddy Rose. DRAW.

(USWA/WMC) - M.C. Slammer d. Keith Roberson; (ANGLE) Danny Davis calls out Bill Dundee & asks if they are still friends. Bill comes out & decks Danny; (MID-SOUTH COLISEUM/TX TITLE) Humongous d. Tom Prichard to win belt; Prichard d. Freezer Thompson; Humongous d. Scorpion; (VIDEO) Humongous; (MSC) Jeff Jarrett/Kim Anthony d. Eric Embry/Miss TX. Miss TX has head shaved; (MSC/USWA TITLE) Jerry Lawler d. Awesome Kong to re-gain USWA title when Lawler ducks & Reggie B. Fine powders Kong. Jerry burns Reggie, then scores fall; (ANGLE) Voice of Christopher "Honey" Love accuses Lawler of running AWA & World Class out of business & vows revenge for being "put in unem-ployment line;" (VIDEO) Dragonmaster; (ANGLE) Dave Brown has to separate Davis/Dundee from face-slapping match; (VIDEO) Jimmy Valiant in "The Boy from New York City;" Chris Frazier d. Embry by DQ when Embry chairs Frazier twice, then decks ref Paul (Heyman Sr.) Neighbors. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

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(WCW/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: P.N. News d. Chris Sullivan; One-Man Gang d. Big Josh when Blackblood bops Josh w. stick; (WNN) Gordon Solie w. Luger/Race/Hughes and Ron Simmons-Race/Hughes standoff; Yellow Dog/Dustin Rhodes d. Arn Anderson/Larry Zbyszko when Dustin schoolboys Larry Z after Brian Pillman shows at ringside and distracts Arn; Richard Morton/Terrence Taylor d. Young Pistols when Morton uses computer on Steve; (WCW TV TITLE) Simmons d. Steve Austin by DQ when Jeannie Clarke runs in. Ron ducks & Steve clotheslines Jeannie. Steve keeps belt. POWERSLAM....best Ross/Paul E. announce job in months. [WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP]: {WCW WORLD TAG TITLE TOURNEY} Patriots d. Taylor/Morton; (ANGLE I) Simmons calls Luger out. Hughes clotheslines Ron. Lex follows w. 3 more with Harley holding until Barry Windham saves; (ANGLE II) Barry calls Lex out but as he & Luger standoff, Race/Hughes ambush. Lex clotheslines Barry until Simmons saves w. chair. Barry/Ron shake hands & form alliance; Diamond Stud d. T.C. Carter; (CONTROL CENTER) Paul E. w. OMG/Blackblood d. El Gigante/Josh in tourney & U.S. title preview; Cactus Jack d. Larry Santo; Oz d. Joey Maggs; (WORLD TAG TOURNEY) Rick Steiner/Bill Kaszmeier d. OMG/Executioner; Bradstreet d. Johnny Rich; (ANGLE) Jeannie interrupts interview with Dustin & Dusty Rhodes to "thank Dustin for the roses;" (WCW TV TITLE) Dustin d. Austin by DQ (Austin retains belt) when Jeannie ambushes Dustin after Rhodes dropkicks Austin on top of Jeannie; Johnny B. Badd d. Larry Corey. DRAW.

(WCW/TBS) - [WCW PRO]: Bobby Eaton d. Skull Von Cross; Stud d. Corey Roberts; (6-MAN) Morton/Taylor/Thomas Rich draw vs. Tom Zenk/Robert Gibson/Rhodes; P.N.W. d. L.A. Gore; (WCW MAG-AZINE) Eric Bischoff on Austin-Badd skirmish; Blackblood d. Yellow Dog & unmasks him as Rip Rogers. RESTHOLD. [W. WIDE]: Pistols d. Rogers/Cody; Hardliners d. Mark Deeb/Kenny McGuire; Sting d. Harley Watkins; (SEG) Scott Steiner on injury; (TV TITLE) Gibson d. Austin by countout when Badd & Steve brawl outside; Simmons d. Morgas the Maniac; Ivan Koloff d. Bob Starr; (ST. TALK) Magnum T.A. w. Sting; Enforcers no contest vs. Josh/Eaton when Freebirds attack both. RESTHOLD.

(IWF) - Incredible Thor d. Nuclear Assassin but Mondo Kleen ambushes Thor after; Stomper d. John Boyd; Heartbreakers d. Terry Davis/Mike Dibacco; Crocodile McKenzie/Caribbean Kid d. Bad Boys on reversal for continued Bad Boy bashing faces; Thunder & Lightning d. Joe Bruce/Java Ruak; Dynamite Express d. Tom Sawyer/Dennis Allen. RESTHOLD.

(PORTLAND) - Larry Oliver draw vs. John Rambo; Mike Winner d. Al Madril; (PNW TAG TITLE) Brian Adams/Steve Doll d. Doug Masters/Don Harris to keep belts; (PIESTA GARDEN) Rip Oliver says he'll be in corner during full nelson challenge; (FULL NELSON CHALLENGE) Dirty White Boy, Winner, Rambo fail to win \$5,000 from Billy Jack Haynes. Haynes refuses Larry O & Mike Miller & demands Doll put up PNW title vs. \$5,000. Doll loses belt when Rip turns heel & bashes Doll w. cheater bar. Larry turns by bashing Miller; Bart Sawyer draw vs. DWB. PILEDRIIVER-PLUS.



1. Paul E. Dangerously/Jim Ross, PH: (PE) "I MADE Jim Ross." (JR) "You made Jim Ross? That's certainly going to come as a surprise to J.D. & Liz, my parents out in Oklahoma." 2. Paul E./Ross, PH, on Jeannie Clarke: (PR) "She looks pretty healthy." (JR) "Like one of our sponsors---Milk: it does a body

good." 3. Cactus Jack, GLOBAL: "If my spit would go that far, I'd drop a gooey one on all these people." 4. Jim Cornette, LPWA: "The Beast is so big, she shops in the Jr. Moose department." 5. Cactus Jack, GLOBAL, on Joe Pedicino: "When The Boss decides it's time, then your ears will find out what my mouth is saying to you." 6. Paul E., PH, on Patriot Chip: "Mr. and Mrs. Chip had nine months to think of what to name their child and the best they could think of was Firebreaker?" 7. Scott Hudson, GLOBAL: "Best Performance By a Wrestler in a Leading Role: Rip Rogers in 'Pain in My Back,' produced by Scott Anthony." 8. Craig Johnson, GLOBAL, on Rogers/Scotty: "Mirrors have not a better friend in the world." 9. Johnson, GLOBAL: "Big Bully Busich, who came in last in the voting for homecoming king." 10. Randy Savage, WWF-SU: "I'll bet on Ted DiBiase to win, 16 cents on him; 14 cents on Virgil to place; and Sherri to show, 12 cents on her."

11. Ross/Paul E., PH: (JR) "I've often pictured Paul E. & Larry Zbyszko locked in a small room together. They could talk each other to death." (PE) "Now we're used car salesmen and insurance salesmen." (JR) "I wouldn't want to slander the car or insurance profession." 12. Vince McMahon, WWF-SU, on Skinner: "He looks as though he'd be typecast in the movie DELIVERANCE." 13. Paul E., PH, on Dennis A. Brent: "The guy needs a high chair to reach his typewriter." 14. McMahon, WWF-SU, on Savage: "You're the champion of all-time for marrying Miss Elizabeth." 15. Cornette, LPWA, on Pedicino: "Who watches you? A couple of burglars somewhere or maybe Arthur Godfrey." 16. Savage, WWF-SU, on "honeymoon": "We're going to go somewhere where there's not any snakes." 17. Jerry Lawler, WMC: "Jimmy Valiant's going to be in Bolivar TN next Friday. That may be an appropriate place for him." 18. Cornette, LPWA: "Ever play poker? That's what the Beast did: poke her." 19. Paul E./Ross, WCW: (JR) "Did your dad ever go watch you play polo?" (PE) "Yes. As a matter of fact, my father once sued the opposing team because they won by one point." 20. Cactus Jack, UIW: "When I walked into UIW, Dave the Wave, I didn't just walk in the door, I kicked it down."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Christopher Love, WMC: "Jerry Lawler, you ran the AWA out of business and they went bankrupt. Do you realize how many people you put out of work?" 2. Ross, PH: "I'll have a lot of things to say on the hotline about the vaunted wrestling journalists who write their weekly comments about our championship situation."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Gene Okerlund, WWF-SU: "Why would anyone with the capabilities of the great Ric Flair need advice from anyone, much less the so-called broadcast journalist?" 2. Pedicino, LPWA, to Cornette: "Have you ever heard of the Emancipation Proclamation?" 3. Pedicino, LPWA, to Cornette: "How many days a month do you spend in the real world?" 4. Jimmy Garvin, WCW: "Jim, is it true you're going out with Downtown Julie Brown of MTV?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. AMERICAN GIGOLO (Johnson on Scotty). 2. SGT. SNORKEL (Hawk on Slaughter). 3. THE REDNECK GIRL (Cornette on Bambi). 4. HATCHET HEAD (Cornette on LPWA ref Tom Johnson). 5. BALTIMORON (Paul E. on Joey Maggs).

BEST PICTURES - 1. GLOBAL/ESPN, Cactus Jack hipbuster on Tom Davis. 2. WCW, Windham/Simmons handshake. 3. WCW, Cactus hipbuster on Larry Santo. 4. LPWA, closeup of Beast choking Susan Sexton. 5. PTW, Big woman carrying Heenan off. 6. PH, Austin doing Savage double axhandle off top on Simmons.

CHRIS BERMAN AWARD - Johnson, GLOBAL: "...back, back, back, back!"



**Another View**  
**ON PEDICINO**  
**TO DATE**

By **DR. MIKE LANO**  
Guest Columnist

The third major news story of 1991 is Global finally getting underway. We've now had many weeks of ESPN to evaluate. Everyone can grouse about the initial two weeks of TV title tourney action but I haven't heard a negative word on match quality since the tag and, especially, the journey tourneys aired. Joe Pedicino has brought fresh faces, excellent matches for TV consumption and tons of concessions to 'cores. In my opinion, he's easily the number two promotion in the States and the one that should worry Vince McMahon currently the most.

I think many of us appreciate the All Japan-style touches: the news center, the tourney recaps and the arena-REAL interviews. We also love All Japan workers (Billy) Black and (Joel) Deaton and future New Japan stars Lightning Kid and (Jerry) Lynn. Joe made a real coup in signing these guys and for having the guts to restart a junior division that's meaningful---one that hasn't made money stateside since the Leroy McGuirk days.

And he beat WCW at the game, since now that WCW has seen interest in the Global product, they are considering restarting a lightweight division, AGAIN. Although it's obvious the marks they pick to ask questions have been prepped, it's a nicety marks might buy. Many of us may not like characters like The Handsome Stranger (as a ripoff of '70s WWA worker Paul Diamond) but female marks apparently are eating it up. Ditto the Del Wilkes character. How many promoters have successfully done what Jim Herd tried but couldn't do: that is, meld smarts and marks and keep everyone happy? At present, only Pedicino.

When Titan snags Busich and WCW Cactus Jack, you know there's fear in the air. Cactus asked if he could continue with the Global tapings but WCW says no, for obvious reasons, even though Cactus may not even work a full schedule (though as of this writing, Cactus is continuing to work for both groups). Look for future snaggings, if there's still a WCW around. The only hope for them right now are Bill Watts and Eddie Gilbert. Anything less will be a Global Disaster for WCW.

My only criticism besides some of the characters for the marks (Rasta the Voodooon, Skandor Akbar and Stranger are obligatory cartoons) are that Joe feels he initially has to have all the tournaments, day by day, from the onset. A week of regular matches between each tourney might show a ratings slag but is the only indicator of interest in these workers and Global, as a whole. What will Joe do for an encore, once all the tourneys are over---and here, I'm speaking of a 5-day-a-week soap opera schedule? As devil's advocate, one can argue it is great to get all of your championships decided from the onset and get all your characters known during the process---so it might be viewed as Global foundation. And even sans beloved Budro (Landell), what a foundation in Scotty (Scott Anthony), Rip (Rogers), Munchin' Singh (Makham, I know), Ax (Bill Eadie), Lightning, Wilkes, Lynn, (Adrian) Street and, hopefully, Cactus. I don't think Joe should even worry himself with past reports of Watts or others doing one-time TV appearances. He's well on his way to being everyone's favorite U.S. promotion. He indeed has our prescription filled and has the medicine for curing 1991's American wrestling ills. Way to go, Joe!

**Does It Match Hogan's?**

**DID WARRIOR**  
**GET MILLION**  
**\$ GUARANTEE?**

STAMFORD CT----Monday night's SUMMER SLAM main event comes amid reports The Ultimate Warrior (Jim Hellwig) has asked for and will get a \$1 million guaranteed contract from Titan Sports.

Titan officials do not confirm dollar figures on performer deals but a number of the Warrior's recent missed dates are said by insiders to be related to Hellwig's contract demands.

The former WWF champion reportedly wanted a similar deal to Hulk Hogan, believed to be the only Titan performer under a contract guaranteeing more than a minimum \$1,500-per-year.

**On Las Vegas Street**

**FORMER GRAPPLER**

**MORGAN MURDERED**

LAS VEGAS----Former 1950s and '60s-era grappler Frank Morgan was found shot to death in front of a Las Vegas school Thursday morning.

Authorities say Morgan was discovered bleeding on a sidewalk in front of Gorman High School in the gambling capital.

According to newspaper accounts, Morgan was thought to have been walking home from a workout at an all-night gym at approximately 4 a.m.

Police say the alleged murder was an apparent drive-by shooting, which has been an increasing problem in Las Vegas.

Morgan was 57. During his career, he was known as both "The Heavenly Body" and Frank (The Tank) Morgan.

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**Fall Profile**

**RATING THE TOP MIKE COMBOS**

While annually, a number of ring publications survey readers on the top individual performances by wrestlers and announcers, rarely is focus placed on announcing teams. This week, we offer a purely subjective look at the top commentary combos, based on blend, angle concentration, humor, preparation and overall skill. Our view is based on the work of the past six months. As always, your perspective is every bit as valid as ours:

**GORILLA MONSOON/BOBBY HEENAN/JIM WEIDHART, WWF**  
**WRESTLING CHALLENGE:** Monsoon and Heenan have teamed longer than any Titan combo and while Gorilla is slightly above average as a commentator, he's a master straight man for Heenan and the act is finely honed. Bobby is the second-best humor man in the business and while Weidhart is the weakest link from his inexperience, Heenan and Monsoon have worked him into the program nicely. **GRADE: 93.**

**JOE PEDICINO/JIM CORNETTE, LPWA:** You may or may not be a fan of this show but it is fun because these two simply have fun with it. If you listen closely, they sharply focus on the match at hand and how it relates to the LPWA programs. Cornette is much more disciplined with his humor here and has grown as an analyst. Except when he resorts to the occasional cliché, Joe is underrated as a play-by-play man. Their rivalry is playful and with no malice. Joe gets in and out and yet, Corny doesn't go into four-minute monologues as in his first color jobs on WCW. **GRADE: 93.**

**JIM ROSS/PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY, WCW/POWER HOUR/PWNY:** Until the second quarter, this combo the tops, bar none. Ross is the best-prepared and top pure play-by-play man in his field and Paul had toned down the harsh edges of his character to the point that their CLASH work and blend on HALLOWEEN HAVOC and STARRCADE was top-notch. The worst thing to happen to this duo was the Missy Hyatt angle with Paul. While the team would be strong in spurts, by the end of an hour, they'd be calling each other "liar" or "idiot" and the tension was uncomfortable to watch. And they'd refer to too many shows as "outstanding" or "dynamic" which weren't. Both have too many strengths for that and last Saturday's POWER HOUR had them back on track as they haven't been in four months. I'm told their tapings in Gainesville were much sharper and I hope that continues. **GRADE: 90.**

**VINCE McMAHON/RODDY PIPER/RANDY SAVAGE, WWF SUPERSTARS:** With three of the five biggest stars of this promotion, you'd expect me to rate them right at the top. Vince, when he's on, gets an angle over as well as anyone in the biz and has been mellow and less mucus-gargling with this combo. Piper has plenty of experience dating back to his old Georgia days. But as much as I admire Savage as a performer and a character, he is not a strong commentator and does not have a quality broadcasting voice for an hour show. Plus, my biggest complaint with this trio is they spend far too much time ignoring the match in the ring while they discuss other storylines and often never identify jobbers and those are heavy markoffs, in my view. **GRADE: 88.**

**TONY SCHIAVONE/LARRY ZBYSKO, PW/CHICAGO:** Schiavone is solid as always and I've always felt Larry had a strong future at the mike. He resorts too often to the cliché but plays his character well without being too grating. The biggest problem this duo has had is simply having too many lackluster matches to generate their best work. **GRADE: 88.**

**CRAIG JOHNSON/SCOTT HUDSON, GLOBAL:** After spending the first four weeks of SUPERCARD going for the record on LINES OF THE WEEK, these two are settling down to be a quality combo. They are well-prepared, giving extensive background info on the competitors and have genuine, not manufactured, enthusiasm. Craig's past work with the Texas guys and Scott's knowledge of the Georgians has brought the characters into focus. They're working hard at reducing the use of the word "great" and Scott's eliminated some of the colloquialisms familiar only to Atlantans he used in the early going. These guys study their work and will only get better. **GRADE: 86.**

**TONY SCHIAVONE/MAGNUM T.A., WCW WORLD WIDE:** I always loved Magnum as a wrestler but I don't think he's any different at the mike than the man Jim Herd dropped from the TBS show in 1989. Schiavone has to work too hard to carry the team and Magnum is just too bland. **GRADE: 80.**

**DAVE BROWN/MICHAEL ST. JOHN, USWA/WNC:** While Dave will never be Lance Russell, he is solid and steady but the addition of St. John does nothing for this show but drag it down. Michael drifts too often into play-by-play when he should be sticking to color and again, he's often too cliché-ridden. Jerry Lawler is needed at the mike here. **GRADE: 78.**

**ERIC BISCHOFF/DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE, WCW PRO:** Bischoff has enthusiasm but needs time to develop credibility as a WCW announcer. But Page is by far the weak link. His character is nothing but a lech and his vocal quality is often difficult to understand. He didn't blend well with Lance Russell at all and is just as weak with Bischoff. **GRADE: 75.**

**KEVIN KELLY/EDDIE MANSFIELD, IWF:** Kelly is just too inexperienced to take the lead. Eddie is a workmanlike color man but the color announcer shouldn't have to carry the team. To be honest, Eddie is actor-trained enough to be the play-by-play man and should pick a strong analyst. **GRADE: 65.**

**MIKE PARADISE/DAVE McALLISTER, UIW:** I didn't think Dave was bad at all at play-by-play but he has to carry the entire show on color and that's too big a load. I've never met Mike and nothing against him personally but he's the most boring lead commentator I've ever heard. **GRADE: 60.**



**Conference Skedded Wednesday****WILL VINCE SETTLE  
WITH GRAHAM???**

PHILADELPHIA---As of deadline, Superstar Billy Graham's news conference---in which he was promising to reveal the most startling wrestling/steroid connections to date---was still scheduled for Wednesday here.

PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT host John Arezzi and possibly Dave Meltzer of THE WRESTLING OBSERVER were planning to cover the briefing and if it occurred as planned, excerpts were scheduled for Wednesday night's airing of ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT in 176 television markets.

But speculation mounted over the weekend that WWF owner Vince McMahon, who along with WWF champion Hulk Hogan and at least one steroid manufacturer were said to be targets of Graham's conference, would try to reach a monetary settlement with the former WWF champion.

Graham has privately told wrestling media members he would announce plans for a lawsuit against several parties as a result of his degenerative bone condition, traced to steroids.

LAWLER REGAINS USWA BELT: Jerry Lawler won back the USWA belt for the sixth time Aug. 12 at the Mid-South Coliseum in 6:40 over Awesome Kong. In the double finish, Lawler ducked a powder throw by Reggie B. Fine & Fine powdered Kong. Jerry then burned Reggie & scored the fall.

HAIRLESS LADY: Jeff Jarrett & Kim Anthony beat Eric Embry and Miss Texas on the same card & Miss Texas lost her hair. That set up Monday's rematch where if Miss TX lost, she had to leave Memphis or if anyone else lost, they'd lose their hair.

NEW GIMMICK: Brickhouse Brown has now become the P.M. News of Memphis. He debuted on TV Saturday as M.C. Slammer and did a rap far better on the beat than Paul Neu.

COMING IN: Chris Love (in voice only) debuted on TV Saturday as the manager of the Dragonmaster (not Kendo Nagasaki but a new one being billed as 7-foot-3). Love is apparently going to work both Memphis and Global.

ALSO MONDAY: Lawler put up the USWA belt vs. Dragonmaster; Humongous (who won the Texas belt last week) in a title rematch vs. Tom Prichard; Embry defended the Southern title vs. the returning Jimmy Valiant; Jarrett/Robert Fuller risked the USWA tag belts vs. the New Goons (there was some talk of Eddie and Doug Gilbert appearing under the masks but the Goons were not even on TV Saturday); Danny Davis (who regained the light heavy belt) in a title rematch vs. Bill Dundee; and Rockin' Randy vs. Bull Pain.

A REAL ANGLE: The WMC show (which is now at a permanent new 10 a.m. time) was interrupted four times by live special reports on a riot by inmates at the Shelby County Jail in Memphis. The prisoners burned parts of the third floor and griped about the living conditions, food and a requirement for them to wear shower shoes. Sounds like a Memphis angle to me.

ON THE WIRE: WCW actually floated a press release on the wire services last weekend indicating Brian Pillman's rein-

statement after "receiving 1,000 signatures from fans."

MEMPHIS BATTLE: It appears USWA will have competition. WPTY (Channel 24) in Memphis has apparently sold a weekly hour to promoter Eddie Bond to begin this Sunday at noon. The first bouts were to be taped Thursday night in Hernando MS.

EDDIE'S SUB: Because of his date in the angle for the GLOBAL Patriot-Perez North American rematch, Eddie Gilbert booked a sub on the Pontotoc MS indie card Friday night but is skedded to return to team with Doug in Louisville this Saturday.

BIG GUY'S DEBUT: Paul Bunyan will make his GWF debut on the Sept. 14 show, which features the Patriot-Perez rematch. Bunyan will be shown in a Japan handicap bout.

AN UPDATE: Johnny B. Badd (Mark Merro) is already a heel again, hence the match vs. Sting on the CLASH. Upcoming WCW shows have the announcers stating Badd and Steve Austin have settled their differences.

SATURDAY TAPING: UIW taped another series of TV matches Saturday afternoon at the Steeltown Entertainment Complex in Baltimore to avoid a night head-on confrontation with Titan.

THE HEYMAN CHALLENGE: Paul E. Dangerously is on a ton of New York radio stations challenging to guest with top talk/insult host Howard Stern. Cactus Jack had a guest shot on Stern's call-in fest last week. Paul is trying to build publicity for PRO WRESTLING NEW YORK's move to WCBS-TV Sept. 22.

BUILDING THE TENSION: At last Monday's tapings in Gainesville GA, a DANGER ZONE ended in another Windham/Simmons vs. Luger/Race/Hughes skirmish.

ANOTHER SHOWDOWN: A Terrence Taylor/Ricky Morton vs. Freebirds showdown was taped in which the 'Birds didn't really turn but the crowd supported them.

MAIN EVENT TAPINGS: Matches taped for upcoming spots on WCW MAIN EVENT included Luger vs. Windham, Hardliners vs. Enforcers (a heel vs. heel encounter during which about only 30% of the original crowd was left) and a light heavyweight tourney match with Mike Graham vs. Taylor.

NO STAR FOR AXL: Axl Rotten's WCW debut, as predicted, was as a jobber. He did the job for Johnny Rich, who has been used predominantly as a WCW jobber of late.

WHO'S THE BOSS?: Skandor Akbar will turn out not to be The Boss of The Cartel on Global. Ak will still be in a business suit and manage John Tatum and Rod Price but Joe Pedicino is considering bringing in Steven DeTruth (Steve Prazak) as The Boss. But the hangup is Steve cannot get off early from his regular job on Fridays to fly to Dallas for TV tapings.

A SIMPLE QUESTION: Rip Rogers of the GWF Cartel teamed, ironically, with Jim Boss at the WCW tapings to lose to Windham and Simmons. GLOBAL announcers Craig Johnson and Scott Hudson, in the crowd, went up to Rogers and asked (about Jim): "Is THAT the BOSS?"

CHAMPIONS CONVENTION: John Arezzi's New York convention, which will include a number of former mat champions (Arezzi also has a commitment from Ric Flair) is expected to draw as many as 4,000 this weekend. Arezzi, Meltzer and Baltimore  
(Continued on Page 8)

**POWER HOUR Scores All-Time Low**

**MAIN EVENT SNAPS  
PTW WIN STREAK**

Bouncing back a bit from the worst-rated week in TBS wrestling history, WCW MAIN EVENT, finishing in a virtual tie with the two WWF/USA shows, captured top honors in the Nielsen ratings race for the week ending Aug. 12.

WWE edged ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING and PRIME TIME WRESTLING in total homes watching. MAIN EVENT scored a 2.6 rating and 6.2 per cent share of audience. ALL-AM and PTW also posted 2.6 marks but WWE was seen in 1.53 million homes, just ahead of ALL-AM (1.5 million) and PTW (1.48 million).

MAIN EVENT's audience increased 37% from the 1.9 of the week preceding. PRIME TIME, despite the hype of the poorly-produced Randy Savage bachelor party, stayed flat from its Aug. 5 airing, while ALL-AMERICAN gained 18%.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING was up slightly, gaining 5% to a 2.2 but WCW squandered the 2.8/7.2 lead-in of the TBS movie, BEASTMASTER. WCW still posted a respectable 6 share.

To no one's surprise, WCW POWER HOUR scored its all-time lowest rating for a first-run episode. POWER HOUR fell to an 0.9, down 18% from its previous low the week before but the Saturday morning show was moved to an 8:05 a.m. time slot for one week with virtually no promotion.

Compared to the same weekend last year, only ALL-AMERICAN showed a ratings increase and MAIN EVENT stayed flat.

**CABLE**

| <u>Week Ending Aug. 12</u>  | <u>Rating/Share</u> | <u>Homes</u> | <u>Year Ago</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| WCW MAIN EVENT (TBS 8/11)   | 2.6/6.2             | 1.53 million | 2.6/6.2         |
| WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 8/11) | 2.6/8.2             | 1.50 million | 2.4/7.3         |
| WWF PRIME TIME (USA 8/12)   | 2.6/4.2             | 1.48 million | 3.0/5.0         |
| WCW WORLD CHAMP. (TBS 8/10) | 2.2/6.0             | 1.30 million | 2.6/6.7         |
| WCW POWER HOUR (TBS 8/10)   | 0.9/6.0             | 516,000      | 1.6/3.0         |

**MATWATCH INC.**  
(From Page 7)

radio talk host Larry Katz are among those invited to a tour of the Titan Sports facilities

and for what has been termed "an hour with Vince" this Friday.

**DON'T LOOK IF YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW:** Barring injury, Sting wins the U.S. title belt Sunday night at the Omni. Syndie commentary is already taped with the references.

**MORE CUTS:** Kevin Sullivan will be on WCW TV into September but is apparently done as of Aug. 31. Dusty had Kevin booked for September but was told to pull him. Oliver Humperdink is already gone and Dallas Page is now strictly color analyst for WCW PRO. Bet on Freebirds going face some time in the fall.

**IWF TAPES NEXT SATURDAY:** Another round at Universal Studios. Friday night, IWF ran in Winter Haven before 150. Cliff Anderson kept his TV belt in a DQ loss to Lou Perez.

**THEY DID IT AGAIN:** An 1,800 turnout for WCW at the U.I.C. Pavillion Saturday but for the ninth straight Chicago show, a screw-job world title finish. Luger d. Windham when he

knocked Barry's foot off the ropes at the count of two. Also, Bobby Eaton pinned Steve Austin clean in the middle in 11 minutes of a TV title match---but only AFTER the match was the crowd told the TV belt can only change hands in the first 10 minutes. Way to keep 'em coming, guys.

**THIS WEEK IN PORTLAND:** Mike Miller and Steve Doll vs. Larry & Rip Oliver and Brian Adams goes after Billy Jack Haynes' Pacific NW title.

**FINAL NOTE:** WWF SUMMER SLAM SPECTACULAR was one of its best-ever lead-ups to a pay-per-view and only one match did not have a clean finish (and you expected that in the Hogan-Slaughter title bout). If they can do it.....

**IDIOTS**  
(From Page 4)

**OOPS AWARDS - 1.** Continued play of WCW action figures spot with Sting saying, "There's my rival, Ric Flair." **2.** First WCW Bruise Cruise spot still showing Luger/Sting walking aisle as partners but second spot edited to show them separately.

**ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1.** Johnson/Hudson, GLOBAL: "...tough row to hoe." **2.** One Man Gang, WCW: "...by hook or by crook."

**ENGLISH LESSONS - 1.** Lawler, WMC: "He DON'T have this belt around his waist." **2.** Michael Hayes, WCW: "Ron Simmons has had to face adversity all his life and has always OVERCAME it."

**DREADED GLITCH AWARDS - 1.** WCW, for seg w. Luger talking about "at the Omni TOMORROW night," when the Omni show is this weekend. **2.** WCW, for not editing out Paul E.'s references to "the MAIN EVENT tomorrow," when WCW MAIN EVENT was pre-empted.

**BLOOPER AWARDS - 1.** Hudson, GLOBAL, calling Tom Davis by real name of Tom Burton (but Scott caught it). **2.** Ross, WCW, calling The Executioner "The ELIMINATOR" (but Jim caught it).

**BOO AWARDS - 1.** WWF, for Jake-Warrior seg. I wonder how many "little Warriors" had nightmares after watching it. **2.** Jeff Jarrett/Eric Embry, USWA/WMC, for both blatantly hitting women during clips from Mid-South Coliseum match. **3.** PTW, for the Randy Savage bachelor party. Not only was much of it in bad, non-family taste, it was one of the worst-written wastes of two hours of TV time. **4.** Dallas Page, WCW PRO: He'll get one every week he continues his "good God" diatribe.

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